

Love Our Triangle of Gardens

With over fifty beautiful gardens across **North Carolina**, start your garden getaway in the **Triangle** area of the **Piedmont** where three prominent university gardens await your visit.

The **Triangle** includes the cities of **Raleigh, Durham** and **Chapel Hill**. Each city offers great dining and shopping, so you'll have plenty to do for the evenings, too. With no more than twenty miles between each major garden, it is easy to visit all three in three days. To top it off, admission is free at these three gardens!

3-Day Itinerary

Day 1

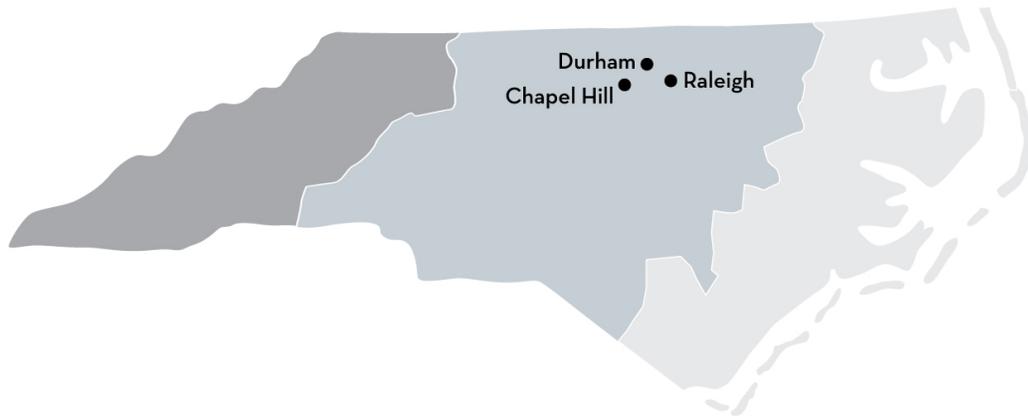
JC Raulston Arboretum, North Carolina State University in Raleigh

Day 2

Sarah P. Duke Gardens, Duke University in Durham

Day 3

North Carolina Botanical Garden, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



Enjoy all the area has to offer by mixing and matching the garden tours and other activities to suit your particular interest. Be sure to check the website or call ahead for visitor information and hours of operation.

Day One – Raleigh

Enjoy a Down-Home Breakfast and Market (1-2 hours)

Start your day early with a hearty breakfast at the Raleigh Farmer's Market restaurant. Biscuits, country ham, farm-fresh eggs and other local specialties are served.

After breakfast, stroll the large **Farmer's Market** to see the bounty of our state. The market overflows with North Carolina produce and products, crafts, plants and garden art. Local chefs shop here for the freshest products for their restaurants!

Amble Through Our Arboretum (2 hours)

Drive only four miles to visit the 8-acre **JC Raulston Arboretum** that sports over 5,000 total species of annuals, perennials, bulbs, shrubs, trees, groundcovers and vines. Here, you'll find superior plants suitable for the southeast landscape. There's a garden to please every gardener. Bring your camera to take photos of the labeled plants so that you can repeat these designs in your home garden!

Grab Lunch in a Garden Shop (1-2 hours)

After a morning of garden tours, you'll be ready for lunch. What better place to dine than at a garden shop?

Head for The Seaboard Café at Logan's Trading Company in downtown Raleigh. Arrive in time to eat before the café, open Monday-Saturday, closes at 2:00pm. On the menu, you'll find sandwiches, burgers, soups and salads. Linger at **Logan's** to shop for plants, garden gifts, garden tools and so much more. Their knowledgeable gardening staff can answer your plant questions!

Be Sure To Reserve Time for this Garden and Nursery (2 hours)

With an **advance reservation**, gardeners can visit Juniper Level Botanic Gardens and Plant Delight Nursery. Located in the countryside, the gardens and nursery are thirty minutes from downtown Raleigh. The 6-acre display gardens include over 17,000 unique plants. The mail-order nursery is known for unusual plants for garden connoisseurs, so a reservation to shop the greenhouses is a special treat!

Legendary Dining

After a day of garden tours and plant shopping, you may be ready for a fabulous steak dinner at the world-renowned Angus Barn located on

Highway 70 near the Raleigh-Durham Airport. This historic restaurant opened in 1960 and the award winning food and wine continues today. Although beef is the prime entrée on the menu - seafood, chicken, grilled vegetables and lamb are also offered.

Day Two – Durham

No Madness at Breakfast (1 hour)

This morning, try the Mad Hatter Bakeshop & Café for a quick breakfast. Freshly baked pastries will tempt you, so why not indulge? There are also light choices of granola, yogurt or oatmeal. For a special treat, order a three-egg omelet stuffed with seasonal veggies or crepes topped with berries and crème fraiche.

Butterflies and Blooms (1-2 hours)

Look up for these garden beauties! Visit the Magic Wings Butterfly House located less than ten minutes from your breakfast spot. Part of the Museum of Life and Science, the butterfly house is among the largest in the world with a conservatory that is thirty feet high! The museum includes 17,000 square feet of tropical gardens. The tropical climate is 80 degrees year-round, making this a fantastic option for a rainy day. Hundreds of tropical butterflies will delight you with their beauty as they flit among the 250 species of tropical plants.

North Carolina Barbecue for You (1 hour)

Within a few minutes of your Duke Gardens destination is Bullock's Barbecue. For those who want to try North Carolina barbecue, hushpuppies and slaw, this is the perfect place. The locals love Bullock's (there may be a line). It's not a fancy place, but the barbecue is great! Take a look at the celebrity photos that line the walls. Closed on Monday.

The Highlight of Heritage Gardens (2-3 hours)

You are now ready to stroll the renowned 55-acre Sarah P. Duke Gardens. The gardens consist of four main sections, including the Terrace Garden, the H.L. Blomquist Garden of Native Plants, the Culberson Asiatic Arboretum and the Doris Duke Center Garden. There is year-round interest in these beautiful gardens. The large lake in the Asiatic Arboretum is adorned with an arched bridge that provides a unique and romantic view of the gardens, swans and ducks. The Terrace Garden includes the wisteria-covered pergola, a vantage point for viewing the blooms in the terraced beds below. Take your time and enjoy the views!

So Many Decisions for Dinner

For several dinner options conveniently grouped together, try the Streets at Southpoint that is located less than twenty minutes from Duke Gardens. **Streets at Southpoint** in Durham is just off Interstate 40, between Raleigh and Chapel Hill. Southpoint also includes a shopping mall and movie theater. Dining choices range from **The Cheesecake Factory** to **Maggiano's Little Italy** to **California Pizza Kitchen** plus **Rockfish Seafood Grill**, **Champps Americana** and **Firebirds Rocky Mountain Grill**.

Day Three – Chapel Hill

Go Bananas over Foster's for Breakfast (1 hour)

Cookbook author, Sara Foster, owns Foster's Market. Sara is often around the restaurant, too. A casual, laid-back, eclectic favorite for breakfast or weekend brunch, the specials change daily. Veggie or meat omelets plus the quiche, pastries and fruit are always delicious choices. Browse the market for intriguing food items and wines from around the world. Outdoor patio dining is available in nice weather for this seat-yourself local hangout. It's okay to read the paper or bring a book!

Meet our Friendly Native Plants (2-3 hours)

Native plants are the main attraction in the wooded 500-acre North Carolina Botanical Garden. Conservation and sustainability principles make this wildflower garden special. Native North Carolina plants are protected and propagated for future generations. The Display Gardens include sections for wildflowers, ferns (those shady characters), herbs and water plants. You can also hike the 88 acres of Piedmont Trails that are adjacent to the Display Gardens. The secret garden shop sells native plants – on the honor system!

Lunch is Always in Season (1-2 hours)

Just a five-minute drive down the road is A Southern Season, a gourmet market that includes a wonderful restaurant, The Weathervane. There are daily specials as well as a menu filled with appetizers, salads, sandwiches and entrees. Outdoor dining is available during nice weather. Reservations are recommended.

After you've enjoyed a pleasant lunch, wander through the gourmet sections of **A Southern Season** to see the choices in chocolates, coffees, teas, breads, cheeses and wines. Sampling is often encouraged!

Get Out of Town for Dinner

Ready to escape to the countryside? Ten miles south of Chapel Hill is Fearington Village and The Fearington House Country Inn. To delight your gardening addiction, there are over 50 garden beds to see that are tucked away throughout the village shops and the inn. Belted Galloway cows and fainting goats live in the pastures on the farm. Folk art and garden architectural features add to the English country charm. The Fearington House Restaurant features an upscale, contemporary cuisine to finish up your garden getaway in style.

Fabulous Places to Stay Around the Triangle

The Umstead Hotel and Spa – Cary/Raleigh

Four Points by Sheraton at Southpoint – Durham

The Carolina Inn – Chapel Hill

The Fearington House Country Inn – Pittsboro/Chapel Hill